

"Digging deep,
Shining a light"

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DECEMBER 2021/ VOLUME 35, NO. 4

FREE

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[nwexaminer](#)

Return to normalcy?

Candidate takes stand against coalition chaos

BY ALLAN CLASSEN

Trying to unseat the Communist Party candidate in a Russian election might involve more physical danger, but running against the chair of the Neighbors West-Northwest neighborhood coalition is daunting enough.

Rick Kneuve of the Sylvan Highlands Neighborhood Association has learned the extent to which NWNW President Richard Barker will go to exercise power.

Candidate Kneuve, who had expressed interest in running for the chair in October, asked Barker if he could have 10 minutes on the agenda in November to share his "insights."

"What is the subject to which you wish to provide us with insights?" replied Barker, who is running for reelection against

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Sally and Rick Kneuve at home with their dog, Elke.

Community Awards tradition resumes



See Awards coverage pages 8-10

City ignores Pearl pleas in Centennial Mills sale

BY ALLAN CLASSEN

In 2005, the Pearl District Neighborhood Association pushed the city of Portland for something more than a park on the 4.4-acre riverside property known as Centennial Mills. Led by its longtime spokesperson, Patricia Gardner, the association sought to preserve the cluster of industrial buildings once representing the largest flour-exporting hub in the Pacific Northwest.

Now, PDNA leaders may regret they ever asked for more. Not only did the City Council approve the sale of the property to a private developer with no obligation to save the last structure on the site, the six-story 1911 Flour Mill, there will be no park.

The council approved the \$13 million sale last month without warning to PDNA despite a long "partnership" between the association and the city's development arm, Prosper Portland, in which the neighborhood often held the upper hand.

"I am pretty upset with Prosper Portland ... not giving us any kind of heads up," PDNA President Stan Penkin told his board Nov. 11. "We've been working with Prosper and previously the Portland Development Commission for almost 20 years. The 2006 Framework Plan was created, and now there's no framework anymore. It's just whatever they want to do."

"Until about a year ago, we were having ongoing conversations with an advisory committee, and all of a sudden they went dark on us and we find out something through the newspapers."

Later in the month, PDNA land-use chair David Dysert criticized Prosper Portland, the council, local philanthropists and the people of Portland for their insufficient commitment to preserving at least a remnant of the historic mills. But, as PDNA's representative on Prosper Portland's Stakeholders Evaluation Committee that disbanded in February about the time the council committed that saving the flour mill was infeasible, Dysert was in a ticklish situation. He explained that he knew nothing specifically of the agency's abandonment of the

Continued on page 7

"What if, today, we were grateful for everything?"
— Charlie Brown

THE PARK VISTA COOPERATIVE — A LIFESTYLE TO BE THANKFUL FOR



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THE SUBTLE ELEGANCE AND DRAMATIC AMBIANCE — NICER THAN NICE



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— Tom McCall in an interview with author Studs Terkel

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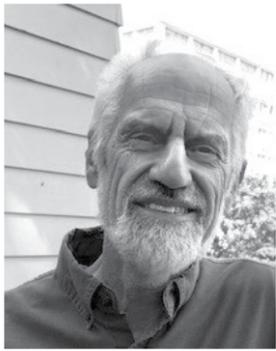


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The Dan Volkmer Team:
Dan, Kishra, Mardi, Fritz and Burdean



No wasted vacancy

I often dwell on the wasted social and economic capital embodied by vacant commercial spaces, especially in the many new apartment buildings. Some buildings are completed years before attracting their first commercial tenant.

Pearl West at Northwest 14th and Irving streets has had 18,500 square feet of empty ground floor space since it was completed in 2016. At the current asking price of \$30 a square foot per year, that's more than \$2.5 million of value doing nothing other than supporting a "for lease" sign. Meanwhile, it devours taxes, utilities, maintenance and insurance costs.

I picked this particular building not because it is unique but because its developer, Walter Bowen, installed a plaque boasting of pulling the Pearl District from the doldrums of the Great Recession of 2007-09. Hubris always makes a good story.

Other commercial spaces old and new are in the same boat. Scores of restaurants and retail shops are shuttered or no longer in business, online shopping is a permanent part of the economy and many Portland store windows are boarded up in fear of the next glass-shattering riot.

Vacant storefronts are not merely a loss of potential revenue; they are blight on the community. Boarded or papered up windows communicate failure while negating the possibility of "eyes on the street" that make urban spaces welcoming and safe. The requirement of "active ground-floor uses" embedded in city code is meaningless if structures intended for occupants have lifeless covered windows acting as blank walls. Any activation, even if not generating revenue, would be preferable.

But every great problem presents an opportunity. What about turning a few of these vacant spaces into clubhouses for local neighborhood associations? They



"Mister, have we got a deal for you!"

could be drop-in centers as well as association offices.

There used to be such an office on Northwest 23rd Avenue, a highly visible space where anyone could hear "the latest," chat with neighborhood staff and simply hang out with fellow neighbors, a hot pot of coffee at the ready. The walls were adorned with posters and charts related to community projects. The space also hosted board and committee meetings.

Rising rents drove that office to ever-more isolated spaces giving no clue that someone would be welcome to drop in and say hello. Very few people even know that there is an office for inner-Westside neighborhood associations.

Building owners would benefit from a traffic-generating occupant, even one contributing little or no rent, provided

that such a tenant could be moved out on short notice should a paying tenant come along.

A neighborhood association office of this type is needed for each neighborhood, recognizing that entirely residential districts may not have the requisite commercial spaces to pull it off.

Neighborhood offices could generate revenues by running coffee and snack bars. Most associations are eligible for several small grant programs that could be tapped for perhaps tens of thousands of dollars a year. Solicitation of small donations from members could be another funding source.

Staffing could be minimal. Private security firms now working for several property owner consortiums in the area might handle the keys and use the space as an outpost, but administrative employees

would not be necessary. Neighborhood offices might also co-locate with building rental offices, banks or other businesses that maintain prominent but seldom-visited locations.

None of this depends on support from the Portland Office of Community & Civic Life, which has so compromised neighborhood associations in recent years that I would not recommend chasing this money. In another era, when perhaps Charter Reform is adopted and our city again works for us, that may change.

It's just an idea at this point. I hope it sparks imagination. When Portlanders of goodwill buy into an idea, amazing things can come about.

I know. That's how the NW Examiner overcame COVID and (I firmly believe) came back stronger than ever. ■

Readers Reply

Letters can be sent to: allan@nwexaminer.com or 2825 NW Upshur St, Ste. C, Portland, OR 97210. Letters should be 300 words or fewer; include a name and a street of residence. Deadline: third Saturday of the month.

Interest revived

Thanks to your recent stand against the nonsense from Neighbors West-Northwest ["Freedom of the Press," November], my interest in reading the NW Examiner has been revived. I was at times a regular reader of the Examiner going back to the early 1990s, and I intend to read more of it in the future after receiving an account of your display of integrity that rings familiar to me in the face of the games that are played by those who pretend to represent the interests of local people.

Your actions as well as your candid accounts of

this matter have helped to reorient me toward the businesses and other entities that support and are supported by the Examiner.

Chris Wade
NW 22nd Place

Move forward

I have been remiss in not speaking up publicly for NW Examiner Editor Allan Classen.

I didn't want to make anyone feel I was not in support of the Pearl District Neighborhood Association. However, the recent Neighbors West-Northwest's accusations and emails among its board

members have required me to speak up on Allan's behalf. Allan has been accused of inaccurate reporting and publicizing private information. I don't have all the facts, but what I do know is that Allan has devoted 35 years to keeping us informed about what is going on in our community. He has a following of friends, business people and readers who support him because of his ethical principles, fact-based reporting and attendance at meetings that impact us all. He is devoted to his work. And he always seeks to report with accuracy and fairness.

To permanently ban Allan or any member of the press from a public meeting due to the consensus

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The NW Examiner

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Philip H Lowthian



Philip H Lowthian, a longtime Portland Heights and Pearl District resident, died Oct. 28 at age 85 from COVID-related causes. He was born Oct. 27, 1936, in Phoenix and grew up

in California, graduating from Acalanes High School in the Bay Area. He graduated from the University of Oregon in 1958. After two years in the U.S. Army Central Intelligence Corps in Washington, D.C., he returned to the University of Oregon, where he received a master's degree in economics and then, in 1965, a law degree. He married Jacqueline LaDue in 1962. They moved to Portland, where he opened the Albina branch of the Multnomah County Legal Aid Service. In 1972, he co-founded the law firm of Anderson, Hall, Lowthian & Gross and 10 years later became a sole practitioner. He was on the board of the Southwest Hills Residential League and Planned Parenthood. He lived in the Pearl District since 1996. He is survived by his wife, Jackie; their children, Josh, Michaela Bancud, Amanda Meyers; and three grandchildren.

Jason Reynolds



Jason Matthew Reynolds, a longtime Northwest Portland resident, died Oct. 11 at age 73 of causes related to colon cancer. He was born April 16, 1948, in Franklin Square, N.Y., and graduated from H. Frank Casey High School. After graduating from Michigan State University in 1970, he returned to New York City, where he worked as a social worker counseling clients with addictions. Several years later, he moved to Port-

land, where he and his wife started a public relations agency, The Creative Factory. For 22 years he facilitated a self-help group, Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance, which met at Legacy Good Samaritan Medical Center. He was executive director of the Oregon Consumer League from 1998-2015. After that, he worked as a dissertation writing coach.

Robert E. Reininga



Robert Elliott Reininga, who lived at Touchmark in the West Hills retirement home for the past four years, died Oct. 31, at age 89. He was born on April 23, 1932, in Oak Park, Ill.

He received a degree in chemical engineering from the University of Colorado Boulder in 1954 and an MBA from the University of Chicago in 1965. He married Suzanne Marie Axt in 1957; she died in 2009. He worked as a chemical engineer for 13 years at Universal Oil Products and then became a petroleum analyst, initially with Harris Bank of Chicago and later in his own business, Reininga & Co. He is survived by his daughter, Krista DeVoe; son, Peter; nine grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. He was predeceased by his daughter, Karen.

Mary Ellen Showalter



Mary Ellen Showalter, a former teacher at Chapman Elementary School and resident of Willamette Heights since 1965, died Sept. 6 at age 87. Mary Ellen Holbrook was born Aug. 2,

1934, in Portland, and moved to Roseburg in 1936. She graduated from Southern Oregon College of Education

in 1956. She taught in Tokyo and Okinawa, Japan, and in England and Germany. She married Tom Showalter in 1963. After moving to Portland, she taught at Lake Grove, Buckman Hosford and Chief Joseph schools. She was a former board member of Friendly House. She was a member of First Presbyterian Church in Portland and Heritage Study Group. She is survived by her husband, Tom; and daughter, Rachel Showalter Inman.

Allene Morgan



Allene Mae Morgan, who grew up in Linton, died Aug. 3 at age 93. Allene Mae Amacher was born Aug. 15, 1927, in Portland. She graduated from Hillsboro High School in 1945

and the University of Oregon in 1949. She married Robert R. Morgan Jr. in 1949; he died in 2013. She worked as a bookkeeper for Industrial Chrome Plating Co., for 18 years. She was a member of Hinson Baptist Church for almost 70 years. She is survived by her sons, Garry and Steve; daughters, Sue Thiesen and Carol Nel; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Charles "Tom" Mahew II



Charles T. "Tom" Mahew II, a resident of The Edge Lofts in the Pearl District since 2009, died in his home on Oct. 23 at age 77. He was born Dec. 29, 1943, in Crystal City, Mo., and

graduated from Crystal City High in 1962 before moving to Texas, California and Oregon. He worked as a home

and commercial interior designer and had prestigious clients around the world. He is survived by his brother, Steve.

Death notices

WILLIAM M. BECKMAN, 87, attended Lincoln High School.

EMIL F. 'BUD' BLADOW JR., 89, managing partner of Association for Portland Progress Clean and Safe Program.

VERN GRIMSHAW, 87, attended Lincoln High School.

GEORGE J. JANIS, 75, former executive director of Fruit & Flower Childcare Center.

LOUISE JOHNSON KING, 91, Lincoln High School class of 1948.

JOHN T. MALARKEY, 90, attended Catlin Hillside Elementary School and Lincoln High School.

LAWRENCE F. MCKINNEY, 82, Multnomah Athletic Club member.

BEVERLY (THOMPSON) MILLER, 93, lifelong parishioner of St. Mark's Church.

ELLISON CARL "ELI" MORGAN, 84, owned M Financial Group, which had three locations in Northwest Portland.

PAAVO PATOKOSKI, 80, employed as ESCO Corp. for 36 years.

DIANA PITTOCK PERKINS, 79, 1960 graduate of Lincoln High School.

TIMOTHY SANDVIG, 62, member of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral.

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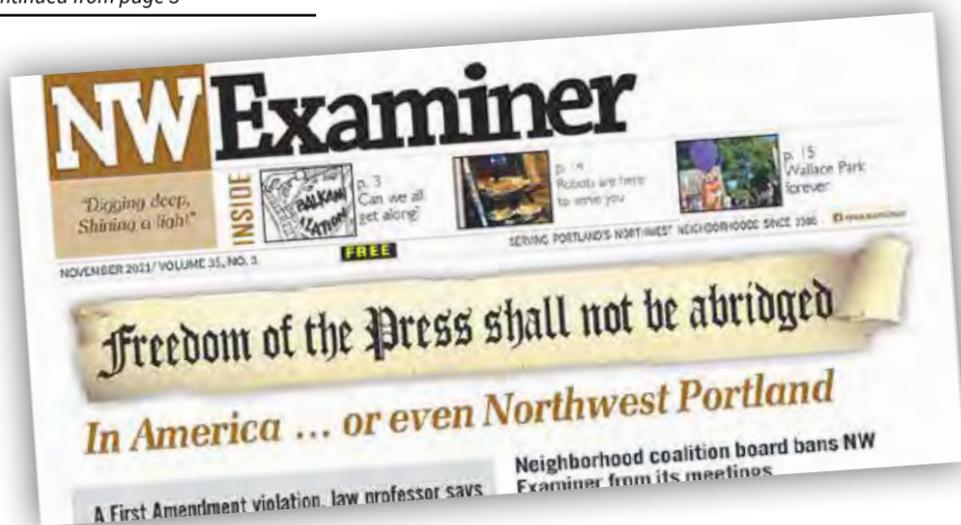
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Readers Reply

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of a small group is simply wrong. And it denies our community information we rely on. Can those involved find a way to respectfully move forward and not punish someone who has given so much to our community?

Judie Dunken
NW Johnson St.

Tyrannical act

I am appalled by the exclusion of the NW Examiner from the proceedings of the Neighbors-West Northwest Coalition. The public has a right, supported by law, to know what goes on at these meetings, and excluding the press is unconscionable. Gagging the press is the first act of tyrants.

Encouraging diversity and inclusion of marginalized people in neighborhood associations is a laudable goal, but the approach to that by the coalition staff and activists empowered by city government has been heavy-handed, top-down and disrespectful of many who for years have advocated for their neighborhoods.

This needn't have been so ugly. Those working for inclusion and sensitivity could have worked with neighborhood associations to achieve that goal. Instead, this kind of advocacy has been used as a stalking horse to destroy the neighborhood association network as it used to exist. Why? Because neighbors advocating on issues that matter to them, whether it is noise mitigation, regulating traffic, historic preservation or whatever, are an inconvenience to those who want to impose top-down plans. And an inconvenience to those practicing thought control.

When I chaired NWNW in the mid-'90s, we worked on many issues immediately relevant to livability in our neighborhoods—matters like land use, transportation and the like—and if not always without conflict, the board was collegial. Now we hear of a board member being required to resign or be “re-educated.” What is this? Maoist China? Diversity must include diversity of opinion. Neither this city nor the country as a whole is going to emerge from the painful period we are in unless that is recognized.

Louisa McCleary
NW Cumberland Road

Shining a light

At the Oct. 13 Neighbors West-Northwest board meeting, Stan Penkin (Pearl District) and Les Blaize (Forest Park) ill-advisedly put forward a motion. Convuluted debate ended in confusion. Nevertheless, it passed, with only Steve Pinger

(Northwest District Association) and Scott Schaffer (Goose Hollow Foot-hills League) opposed. It should be rescinded.

The resolution asserts that Pinger, a NWNW board member, created an unsafe environment for a junior NWNW staff member, and that Allan Classen of the NW Examiner singled out this person, thereby exacerbating the situation. No objective evidence supporting these assertions has been produced.

I have scrutinized the relevant articles in the September and October 2021 issues of the Examiner. Although Classen's reporting features a photo of an NWNW staff person, it does not otherwise reference, characterize or impugn this person. No evidence has been offered to demonstrate that Pinger and/or Classen disparaged or harmed an NWNW staff person. Ironically, NWNW's own resolution publicly identifies and characterizes a junior employee.

The resolution states that Classen is not welcome to attend NWNW meetings, is barred from attending them, and NWNW will cease doing business with the Examiner. By these actions, the NWNW board is muzzling the Examiner's sole journalist while sanctioning his newspaper business. The assertions are based on unsupported yet widely published claims that could bring financial and reputational harm to Classen.

Meanwhile, NWNW's Executive Director Mark Sieber has asserted that NWNW is not subject to Oregon statutes regarding meetings and executive sessions. Yet NWNW receives virtually all of its funding from the public purse and NWNW's board is entirely served by unpaid representatives drawn from the coalition's 11 neighborhoods. Perhaps Sieber should manage staffing issues more effectively, dust off a copy of Oregon's statutes, respect freedom of the press and not let others take the fall.

Kal Toth
SW Fifth Ave.

Backbone appreciated

Your newspaper has been an outstanding source of information on what is happening in Northwest Portland and the urban area. Being in commercial real estate, my favorite section is the development map, with information and an update on new projects.

However, I have come to appreciate your firm backbone and having the guts to stand up for what is right. I enjoyed the Glittergate articles and applaud your stance with the Northwest coalition board.

Mark D. Barry
SW Clifton St.

Good news, bad news

I can always count on good news and bad news in the monthly NW Examiner. In this month's issue, the bad news is the continued path to ruin by the Neighbors West-Northwest coalition of neighborhood associations eager to devolve from a nationally recognized (at one time) grass roots democratic forum to an authoritarian and intolerant social justice agency. The latest is that the majority of the coalition board seeks to bar from public proceedings those who have the audacity to want to report coalition and staff malfeasance and censorship both in public hearings and behind the scenes, including the cobbling of a public record of proceedings that bears little resemblance to reality.

Cont'd on page 6

What happens when you're not Portland Polite?

Here's a wild one: A group of neighborhood associations on the west side of Portland have decided to ban the editor of the neighborhood newspaper from their meetings. And the editor in question, Allan Classen of the NW Examiner, isn't happy about it. It makes for some amusing reading on newsstands throughout Northwest Portland.

That's a problem with neighborhood associations. They carry out a public function with taxpayer money, but after a while they turn into dysfunctional social clubs. And boy, do they ever have thin skins.

Allan Classen is a bulldog of a reporter with an excellent track record for accuracy. I'm not privy to what is involved in this dispute, but I know Allan to have utmost integrity and care for the turf he covers.

bojack2.com/2021/11/what-happens-when-youre-not-portland.html

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Readers Reply
continued from page 5

Fortunately, the board's feeble and desperate attempts to marginalize one of the city's and neighborhood's most respected voices only succeeds in causing outrage among neighbors who value the First Amendment and transparency. This reader anticipates the Examiner's future disinfecting with sunlight the further shenanigans of the NWNW board and its staff.

The Examiner's reporting on the AdoptOneBlock program is the good news. It is inspiring to see neighbors volunteering to clean up their city one block at a time, slowly bringing back urban livability and even providing less fortunate neighbors the opportunity to achieve a true sense of accomplishment and pride. It is hopeful that neighbors can better their neighborhood without having to negotiate the "woke" orthodoxy of certain neighborhood groups.

Len Stevens
SW St. Clair Ave.

Pronoun distraction

I attended the November Neighbors West-Northwest Zoom meeting, most of which was spent discussing a previous meeting. The "hostile environment" that brought this all about was an observer declining to identify a pronoun of choice. In an environment where folks are trying to display sensitivity to gender issues, it seems

confrontational to publicly require compliance. Declining to identify a pronoun of choice publicly should be sensitively discussed in private. The hostile environment began with the public confrontation, not with the response to it.

In a Zoom meeting, pronouns can be voluntarily offered as one enters the meeting. The protocol in many professional meetings has been a beginning announcement that people put their names, affiliation and pronouns in the "name tag," and if anyone doesn't know how to do that they can privately message the person running the chat. This would eliminate verbal introductions and save meeting time for public input.

Those not offering pronouns can be addressed by using their names where a pronoun may otherwise be used. The most frustrating thing is to see the whole group distracted by this issue when there are many issues in the neighborhoods that need to be addressed.

Life is a hostile environment. Let's be kind to one another. There are many ages and cultures of people involved in our neighborhood associations. Please concentrate on the things we have in common and not create unnecessary divisions that could be addressed privately with gentle reminders and education.

Kathy Sharp
NW Northrup St.

Nextdoor.com posts

Bob Weinstein
• Northwest - Wallace Park

Portland taxpayer-funded agency attacks freedom of the press.

U.S. Constitution, Amendment 1: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

Oregon Constitution, Article 1, Section 8: Freedom of speech and press: "No law shall be passed restraining the free expression of opinion, or restricting the right to speak, write, or print freely on any subject whatever; but every person shall be responsible for the abuse of this right."

In 2017, Donald Trump, tweeted that the nation's news media "is the enemy of the American people."

Trump's efforts to suppress freedom of the press has apparently now come home to roost right here in Portland. According to the above recent article in the NW Examiner, the board of Neighbors West-Northwest has banned publisher Allan Classen and "all NW Examiner representatives from attending their meetings based on the complaint of an employee." The employee not only seems to have made some scurrilous accusations about Classen's character; the board apparently felt that the presence of Classen at their meetings—held on Zoom!—created a "hostile work environment" for that employee.

That is not only absurd, it is an outrage and a dangerous attack on the freedom of the press to report on how local/state/federal governments, as well as taxpayer-funded nonprofits like Neighbors West-Northwest, are conducting their business.

And the board's action must not stand. Can you imagine if Congress, the governor, the state legislature and/or the Portland mayor and City Council started singling out which news media were allowed to cover their meetings and which would be banned because an elected official or an employee did not like the reporting? Which media outlets would be left?

I am writing to Mayor Ted Wheeler and City Council members urging them to look into this matter, and to consider suspending any public funds being transmitted to Neighbors West-Northwest until such time as the board rescinds its action and allows the press- any press- to attend its meetings.

I hope you will consider doing the same. Support freedom of the press!

Jan Newton
• Pearl District North

Bob, thank you for writing this lengthy and thoughtful post on the article in today's NW Examiner. I thought my

head was going to explode when I read the article today, and I'm still just fuming. Our tax money is funding this neighborhood group, Neighbors West-Northwest, and they've banned the press from attending their meetings! Which take place via Zoom, and yet Allan Classen's presence has somehow threatened a staff member!? What the heck!

The organization's membership must be totally replaced with serious people who can work collaboratively on the very real and serious problems that confront our neighborhoods. And who don't spend precious time and taxpayer dollars figuring out what pronouns they want to use to refer to themselves. Sheesh!

Connie McClellan
• Northwest District - Slabtown

Yes, I found this pretty shocking as well. Even if Allan said or did something that hurt someone's feelings, surely there would be myriad other ways to respond before going full-bore unconstitutional! Looks very suspicious, as if NWNW needed an excuse to 1) get away from his reporting in general and 2) generally remove the monitoring and input of the obstreperous public from their doings.

Susan Andrews
• Forest Park

Actually it might be good if another side of this story was shared here. There has been a series of articles sharing misinformation and attacking the staff which contributes to making it unsafe for them at work and in the community. Legal actions are underway and, no, it is not OK for the press to be present when the press itself is involved in creating a hostile environment. More is involved than "hurt feelings."

Connie McClellan

I sent a "News Tip" to the Portland Tribune to cover this from a neutral standpoint. Maybe others here could multiply my request.

Joni Johnson
• Northwest District - Wallace Park

Bottom line— these meetings are subject to the public open meetings laws. Also, this process-focused, interne-cine fight is navel gazing when there are very real neighborhood problems that this squabbling leaves no time to address. I've lived in this neighborhood long enough to remember when the neighborhood association acted as an advocate for issues, not individual egos.

Jan Newton

Joni, you put it perfectly. And this navel gazing process has been going on for nearly two years. Good grief!

And now they're talking about legal action against one of their own board members. Are we, the taxpayers, paying for that too?! This situation is totally out of control. It's like a runaway committee - with us footing the bill for their craziness. Can't the city put their deliberations on hold and stop their funding until this is settled?



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Above: David Dysert: "This should not surprise anyone. They wanted to get rid of this property as soon as they could."

Right: Larry Mazer: "They knew almost six months ago that they wanted to destroy the flour mill, and they didn't bother telling anybody."



The flour mill (center building with water tower on top), is the only remaining structure from a complex that was once the primary flour-exporting port in the Pacific Northwest.

"City ignores" cont'd from page 1

mill when it happened although he had suspected all along that this would be the outcome.

Sarah Harpole, manager of the Centennial Mills project for Prosper Portland, told PDNA last month, "When that committee was disbanded, we provided them an update of our plans. ... I believe we were clear about how we were modifying our evaluation criteria."

"Did that update say you were going to release the flour mill as an obligation?" asked PDNA Planning and Transportation Committee member Larry Mazer.

Harpole stumbled in her reply, first asking for an associate to assist her and finally admitting, "I'd have to go back [to review documents]."

Dysert had no such hesitancy.

"They didn't," he said firmly.

But in the same breath, he defended Harpole against Mazer's lawyerly questions.

"Larry, we're all frustrated, but ... it's not doing any good to beat up on Sarah," Dysert said.

"I'm going to tell you that you're out of line here. Sarah and Prosper are not trying to destroy the flour mill."

"They knew almost six months ago that they wanted to destroy the flour

"All of a sudden they went dark on us, and we find out something through the newspapers."
— Stan Penkin

not informing his board of behind the scenes decisions dooming the flour mill while also shielding Prosper Portland from implications that it broke trust with the neighborhood.

"This should not surprise anyone," he said. "They wanted to get rid of this property as soon as they could."

"Do we want to just beat our chests, or do we want to be effective?"

Dysert advised his organization to "work constructively with the levers we have" to make the design of the new development as good as it can be.

The sale agreement does not mean construction is around the corner. The buyers, MLR Ventures LLC, will have a 12-month due-diligence period, and if they elect to move ahead, another 12 months to get land-use approvals for what they intend to build. Harpole said it could take 10 years to build out the site. ■

mill," Mazer said, "and they didn't bother telling anybody. Then they were trying to say that you knew about it earlier, which you didn't."

In the remainder of the meeting, Dysert repeated and modified his position several times. His dilemma was in denying blame for

Judie Dunken
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Community Awards tradition resumes

Last month's NW Examiner Community Awards night revived a 26-year tradition interrupted last year by the pandemic. Seven individuals and one organization were honored for their contributions to community life in the neighborhoods served by the newspaper.

The 2021 awards night tapped into several recurring themes: the capacity of committed citizens to identify the most serious challenges faced by their communities and then craft creative solutions, the power of people working together and the importance of journalism in connecting people to events and ideas that provoke and inspire.

The 2021 event moved to a new venue, Redfox Commons, provided without charge by Langley Investment.

All photos by Julie Keefe.

Neighbor's Keeper Awards David Dickson • Darlene Garrett



Dickson and Garrett were honored for their work to create the Downtown Neighborhood Association Homelessness Committee, organize a full-day workshop in 2019 drawing people from all sides of the issue and mobilize teams to visit and get to know downtown residents living on the streets.



Musicians René Berblinger and Olivia Duffy.

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Walter Weyler

Glen Downs Justice For All Award

Ron Silver

Homeward Bound Award

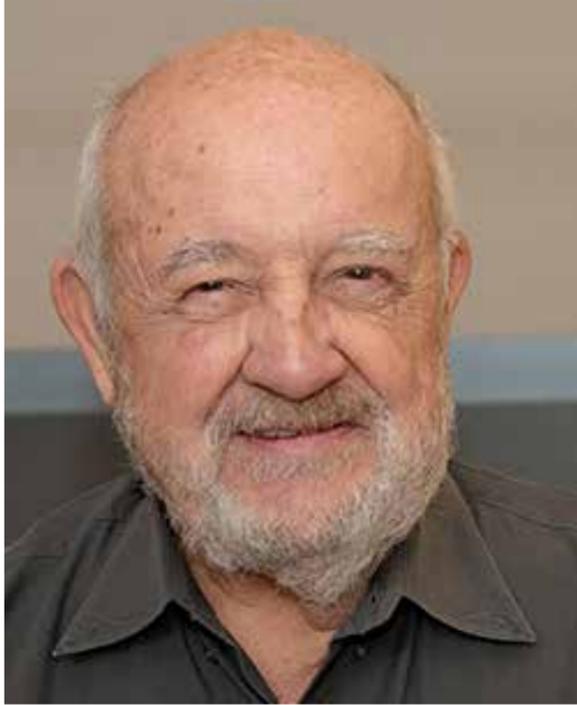
Harbor of Hope

Founder's Award

Walter Weyler



Silver co-founded the annual service celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday at Temple Beth Israel the past 14 years. He has taught the history of the civil rights movement in Oregon and Washington schools and in many federal agencies. He is a member of Northwest Freedom Singers, which he co-founded.



Homer Williams founded Harbor of Hope in 2016 after traveling the country to learn how other cities were addressing homelessness. The Navigation Center opened under the Broadway Bridge in 2019, so far putting 550 people on a path to independence. Harbor of Hope also provides mobile shower and laundry trucks and has launched Home Share Oregon to connect low-income people with homeowners having extra space.



Weyler led a campaign to revive the Downtown Neighborhood Association, which had been dormant for months. In two years as DNA's president, the association has blossomed into a broad-based organization with eight active committees and an average monthly attendance of 50. Meetings are run in a scrupulously democratic manner in which anyone can be heard.



Diana Stuart (left) and Wendy Rahm had some points to make.



Joleen Jensen-Classsen greets Page Stockwell enthusiastically.



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Lifetime Achievement Nick Fish



Fish, who died in 2020, served on the Portland City Council for 12 years. In 2010, he led the creation of the Portland Housing Bureau and later spearheaded the city's 10-year plan to end homelessness. He also introduced ethics reform to the city, creating a structure for the city's volunteer boards and commissions in the wake of conflict of interest abuses in formulating a Central City policy plan. (Inset: Fish's widow, Patricia Schechter)

Unicorn Award Deb Sposito



After Sposito inherited her father's apartment building on Northwest Glisan Street in 2016, she struggled to fulfill his dream of housing for ordinary people who live and work in the district. When she learned of Kevin Cavanaugh, a developer who shared her mission, she wanted to give him the property, an offer so generous he refused but then worked with her to design a 13-unit low-rent apartment building for single mothers that is about to break ground.

Good Neighbor Award Page Stockwell



Stockwell carried the Northwest District Association Safety and Livability Committee for about 20 years until stepping down as chair in 2019. He addressed things big and small, from noisy bars operating till 2:30 a.m. to graffiti and litter. His main cause was the garbage haulers waking people up by noisily banging metal dumpsters at all hours. He shared his better ideas about consolidating garbage routes with a city task force. It punted on the bigger issue, but at least the dumpsters now have rubber lids thanks in part to his efforts.



Connie Kirk delivered a special "First Amendment" announcement.

Pat Rumer was thrilled to see her daughter, Deb Sposito, honored.



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Rick Kneueven

"Return" cont'd from page 1

Kneueven. "Are you considered a professional, expert or person of significant knowledge in the subject you would like to present to the board?"

"What are the circumstances which in your opinion make your insights an imperative item which needs to be addressed at the expense of our published agenda items?"

"Answers to these questions could render your question moot. Please respond with complete answers to my questions, and I will review and advise you of my decision. Until these questions are answered satisfactorily, I am unable to fully evaluate your request."

Needless to say, Kneueven was not given time to speak at the November meeting.

Barker himself never faced such a gauntlet. In 2020, his name was placed on a slate of officers, which was adopted unanimously without candidate speeches or discussion of their qualifications.

The climate at coalition meetings is different now. Deep fissures rive NWNW as it faces the most serious public controversy in its 47-year history, brought on by its decisions to discipline Northwest District Association representative Steve Pinger and then to ban this reporter from its public meetings.

Kneueven has little confidence that the Dec. 8 annual meeting and board election will provide adequate opportunity to lay out his goals and reasons for running. But there are other ways to reach the 11 electors, the representatives of the neighborhood associations in the coalition who decide who will lead them.

He has talked to most of the coalition board members privately and believes they want a change from investigations, acrimony and general dysfunction so severe that a consulting firm hired to guide the board quit midstream, vowing to do no more work for the organization until it addressed its internal problems.

Kneueven is revealing no names, but "several neighborhoods are having conversations about pulling out of the coalition," he told the NW Examiner. "I believe there is significant frustration with both issues that are consuming the board's energies as well as the processes being used."

Those issues are the proposed discipline of Pinger and banning of the Examiner.

Kneueven, the alternate coalition representative for his neighborhood, has not been an insider, having attended only three recent board meetings.

"Although involved in my neighborhood for 20 years," he said, "it was a visit to my hometown last summer that was the initial inspiration. My hometown is a typical Midwestern river town. Very blue collar, with a history dating back to the early 19th century. It was a proud community that enjoyed first-class schools and broad-based community involvement.

"Today, it's struggling to survive. Roads have deteriorated. The downtown is a collection of vacant buildings. Absentee landlords make tenants live in squalor. Opioid addiction is rampant. It leads the state in child endangerment and child poverty. It's as tragic as it is heartbreaking. And I was helpless to do anything about it."

"That visit forced me to ask myself some difficult questions about my role in making a difference here in Portland, where I've lived for the past 24 years. Portland is facing numerous challenges. I can watch the city deteriorate with graffiti, crime, trash, and homelessness, or I can participate in finding solutions. If I want to see our city rebound, it is incumbent upon me to step up and engage. I believe that a group of neighborhoods, working together, can make

a difference, and I want to be a part of inspiring renewed engagement and improving livability beyond my own neighborhood association."

While Kneueven has not been a coalition insider, he has experience in analyzing organizational performance. He sold consulting services to improve "team and personal effectiveness to companies, including Google, Nike, AT&T and McKesson.

"The board lacks focus, being mired in a controversy stemming from a visioning process," he said. "That controversy has polarized the coalition and alienated members to the extent that it has become a struggle of personalities.

"Tragically, the purpose of the coalition has been lost in all of this. Instead of 11 neighborhoods teaming together to confront complex issues, it has devolved into a struggle for power on the one hand and accountability on the other. Consequently, the needs of neighborhoods (like addressing homelessness and crime prevention) are being pushed to the margins.

"Of course, there are procedural things that on the surface appear painfully tedious. In reality, those procedures ensure the representative nature of the coalition.

Kneueven offered some examples:

- Votes are taken without board members being able to speak with their neighborhood associations;
- Board members are asked to approve resolutions without being given a full accounting of the issues involved;
- The current president acts unilaterally, exercising power he doesn't have;

ally, exercising power he doesn't have;

- Agendas are built to deny members the opportunity to question or seek clarification; and

- The board receives advice designed to limit participation.

"There is no place for unilateral actions in a representative system. Failing this, we are failing the neighborhoods we are bound to represent, and we are failing our obligation to our neighbors."

Kneueven does not accept the coalition's decision to ban the Examiner.

"I am a firm believer in an open and free press. I believe a public body should welcome that scrutiny. The coalition bylaws make no allowance for unilateral action. The action that banished the Examiner was inconsistent with the original motion, is in violation of Oregon public meeting laws and is a potential violation of First Amendment rights. Therefore, it is null."

His more middle-of-the-road platform contrasts with NWNW's current march toward becoming primarily a social diversity agency, possibly making its neighborhood representatives only a subset of a more broadly selected board.

"It is my intention to return the coalition to the business of supporting the neighborhoods," he said. "We have an obligation to the city, to neighborhoods and to taxpayers to return to the business of solving problems and inspiring engagement." ■

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"It is my intention to return the coalition to the business of supporting the neighborhoods."
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Keeping it in the bubble

Coalition has meager contact with member associations

BY ALLAN CLASSEN

To local neighborhood activists, the board of Neighbors West-Northwest would seem to be the A team. Composed of presidents or top lieutenants from 11 neighborhood associations in the inner Westside, the NWNW coalition commands a city-funded staff and offers the opportunity to combine grass-roots forces on issues too difficult or broad for singular action.

Yet over the years, this body has become a backwater, a petty bureaucracy little known in the communities it serves and exerting minimal political influence. Board members often describe attendance at its monthly board meetings as an odious chore to be pushed off onto uninitiated surrogates.

Scott Schaffer, president of the Goose Hollow Foothills League, joked to his board that he managed to find others to cover for him in two of the prior three months.

One of his unprepared fill-ins was Vadim Mozyrsky, a GHFL board member who is running for Portland City Council.

"That was so painful," Mozyrsky said of the September NWNW session. "I will never, ever go to another meeting you send me to."

In October, Tiffany Hammer attended for GHFL and she also pledged to never return.

"They're just unable to accomplish anything," Hammer said. "They're just arguing among themselves."

Darlene Garrett resigned from her position as the Downtown Neighborhood Association's representative to NWNW in October after expressing fear that she was unprepared for the complex, litigious thicket she had stepped into.

Chuck Duffy of the Northwest District Association, who observed the September NWNW meeting, called it "about the worst meeting I've ever sat in on. It's beyond pathetic."

Those are only the most recent comments on point. It's not a new picture.

Three years ago, Barry Newman of the Forest Heights Neighborhood Association described NWNW meetings as so intolerable he felt like a trapped animal trying to chew off a limb to get free.



Mark Sieber



Richard Barker



Melanie Billings-Yun

Moments of drama captured in these comments are surrounded by nondescript hours dwelling on micro-detailed staff reports on insurance, budgets or compliance with administrative city rules. The tedium may be the greater danger: Meetings can be so nondescript that coalition board members seldom report what's going on to their own neighborhood associations. Affiliated neighborhood associations may go months or even years without a report of any kind on what Neighbors West Northwest is doing or how it might affect their own association.

The one representative who has taken his reporting duty seriously, Steve Pinger of the Northwest District Association, is under investigation by the board for "dominating" meeting time, "relitigating" matters supposedly decided earlier, raising questions about the roles of staff and the official minutes. Pinger is the one coalition board member who has explained the shifting mission and practices of the coalition to his own association and asked for its guidance. That kind of attention to his responsibilities has made him an outcast on an NWNW board where officers give orders and most of the others quietly fall in line.

While coalition meetings dwell on minutiae and staff presentations, major controversies may not even get on the agenda. NWNW President Richard Barker, who also chairs the Linnton Neighborhood Association, had no room for an NWNW update on the agenda of Linnton's November board meeting.

It's not as if there was nothing to say. Since the previous Linnton meeting, Barker had overseen the coalition's reaction to two critical Examiner cover stories, which detailed the banning of a journalist and a coalition board member and a consulting firm backing out of its contract

with NWNW due to the board's dysfunction. Barker deemed none of this of interest to his neighborhood board.

At the October Pearl District Neighborhood Association meeting, board President and coalition Vice President Stan Penkin rebuffed repeated requests to share news about NWNW. The night before, Penkin had delivered a resolution banning the Examiner from future coalition meetings, but to his own board, all he would say was "it's very complicated" and "it's not something that I feel at liberty to talk about right now."

A month later, he apologized for not being more candid. Nothing was said about his decision to take such drastic action without the input or knowledge of his own neighborhood association.

Melanie Billings-Yun, president of Southwest Hills Residential League, drafted a letter for NWNW approval that was so damning that even a board that later voted to ban me considered it too harsh. But at the November SWHRL board meeting, the entire topic was ignored.

If the neighborhood boards that form the coalition aren't made aware of what happens at NWNW, even those who sit around the figurative NWNW board table are regularly kept in the dark. The November NWNW agenda had no room for mention of shutting a reporter off from attendance. The day before that meeting, Barker issued an order banning me, claiming he was enacting an earlier resolution but using novel language allowing other Examiner representatives to participate.

How did Barker get the authority to write his own compromise? He didn't bring it up at the board meeting the following day, and no one on the board said anything. Only in the last two minutes of the meeting, reserved for public comment, did the topic arise.

Downtown resident Connie Kirk, a former journalist, delivered a prepared statement before Barker advised that her time was up eight seconds short of two minutes.

"What I find deeply concerning in a democracy," Kirk said, "is that you made a unilateral decision to cut off a critical news source that affects our daily lives. The NW Examiner is a paper that covers your decisions as a body under the auspices of the city of Portland under Oregon statutes. I'd like to know if Commissioner [Jo Ann] Hardesty, Mayor [Ted] Wheeler and the entire City Council approve of banning of freedom of the press."

"I think that you should be aware that this story is not just about the 27 people here. This has very big implications."

Records request

The Examiner submitted a public records request to NWNW on Nov. 16 for all emails and other communications to and from staff and board members mentioning Classen or the Examiner. Two days later, Barker replied, "We will consider your request and address it as time allows."

When reminded that the standard turnaround time under Oregon law is seven days, Barker wrote that city guidelines allow coalitions to "control the time and manner of inspection of records."

"We will be providing you with your requested records upon completion of the Executive Committee's review," he wrote. "We will process your request as expeditiously as possible but not within the seven days you have demanded." ■

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Revisiting the Yamaguchi Hotel

BY FRED LEESON

The drama over demolition of the old Yamaguchi Hotel, later used as the first Blanchet House of Hospitality, didn't end with the City Council's decision in July to allow demolition of the 116-year-old building at 340 NW Glisan St.

The council's ruling was appealed to the state Land Use Board of Appeals by two preservation organizations and the Japanese American Museum of Oregon. Their first motion was to stay the demolition while a full appeal could occur that attacked the council's grounds for allowing demolition.

As Yogi Berra, the great Yankee catcher allegedly said, "It ain't over till it's over." Except now it is getting closer.

Pretrial negotiations led to a settlement in which the Blanchet House, a nonprofit that provides food, housing and aid those in need, agreed to save elements of the old building before demolition. The pieces ostensibly can be incorporated into a new structure on the same site, or used elsewhere as part of a historic display.

The settlement states:

"At its sole cost and expense, Blanchet House will use all commercially reasonable methods and best management practices in the demolition of the 340 NW Glisan St. building to preserve the following historical elements of the Building:

- Exterior building doors and frames on Glisan Street Frontage, including transoms;
- Wood components of ground-floor storefront system on Glisan Street frontage, including frames and sills;
- Wood components of upper level windows on Glisan Street frontage, including frames, sills, sashes, arched header and interior casings;
- Iron columns immediately behind the Glisan Street ground floor storefront;
- At least 100 original bricks.

As part of the settlement, the Land Use Board of Appeals will reimburse Restore Oregon and the Architectural Heritage Center for \$5,000 in legal fees.

It is easy to say the settlement nets only bits and pieces of what the appellants originally wanted. On the other hand, it amounts to a "win" in that some of the historic fabric will be saved—a result that went beyond the City Council's ruling.

During its tenure as the Yamaguchi Hotel, the building was a beacon for Japanese residents, who during its 25-year span were subjected to immigration restrictions and bans and were prevented from buying or owning property.

Oddly, the Blanchet House, a respected nonprofit with an excellent reputation for its work, apparently knew little or nothing



The historic Blanchet House at 340 NW Glisan St. may soon be reduced to a few artifacts.

about the Japanese history associated with the building. The structure is listed as a contributing element in the 10-square-block Portland New Chinatown/Japan-town National Historic District.

"The settlement agreement is better than if no appeal had been initiated," said Larry Kojaku, a board member of the Architectural Heritage Center.

He added, however, that a better long-term solution would be for the city to not consider demolishing a historic landmark without assessing the comparative value of a proposed building to replace it. That is the standard recommended by the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office.

Ironically, Blanchet House went through that exact procedure when it persuaded the city to demolish another building in the historic district to make way for the new (current) Blanchet House

adjacent to the old one.

In this case, the Blanchet House did not offer a specific proposal in return for demolition. At one point, it did suggest building a community health center on the site, but there was no assurance that the old building would be more than vacant land for the foreseeable future.

At the City Council's direction, Blanchet House is continuing to meet with a committee of historians and neighborhood leaders to discuss what should happen at the old Blanchet House site. In an ideal world, they would find a way to rehabilitate the building so it could provide a community health center and more housing for the Blanchet clientele.

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NW PORTLAND / PEARL DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT MAP

NW 29TH AND NICOLAI

A cluster of seven residential buildings is planned for the corner of Northwest 29th and Nicolai streets where the Northwest Children's Theater had planned to build before the COVID pandemic. All buildings will be under 20 units apiece to avoid triggering a requirement to include a share of affordable units, a strategy Northwest District Association Planning Committee member John Czarnicki strongly criticized.



ESCO PROPERTY

Owners of the 22-acre former ESCO property between Northwest Upshur and Nicolai streets are waiting on the city's slow-moving process to reconsider land-use policy and zoning in this area. The latest study draft from the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability favors medium- and high-density mixed use development that includes residential structures. Warren Rosenfeld, a member of the local owners group calling itself 1535 LLC, said they have no specific plans three years after the acquisition. "Our ultimate goal is flexibility," he said.



QUIMBY TOWNHOMES

Nine townhouses and one studio apartment are to replace a one-story industrial building at 1520 NW 20th Ave. Skylab Architects is proposing a design that allows windows on all four sides of the townhouses. Each townhouse will have four levels plus a rooftop deck. There will be nine off-street parking stalls at mid-block.



BLOCKS 261-262

A new developer has stepped into the Blocks 261-262 project at Northwest 20th and Savier streets but with few changes from a design criticized by both the Northwest District Association and the Portland Design Commission last summer. Respecting the landmark St. Patrick Church immediately east by reducing the proposed structure's height and providing a pocket park between them are key issues in the approval process.

THE SUSAN EMMONS

The shell of the historic Ballow & Wright Building, 1727 NW Hoyt St., is exposed as construction begins on The Susan Emmons, a 146-unit affordable apartment building to its north and a smaller market-rate building to the south. In 2014, the City Council denied demolition of the 1918 building erected as a women's hospital and managed by a woman who was also a key figure in the founding of the Oregon Health & Science University nursing school.

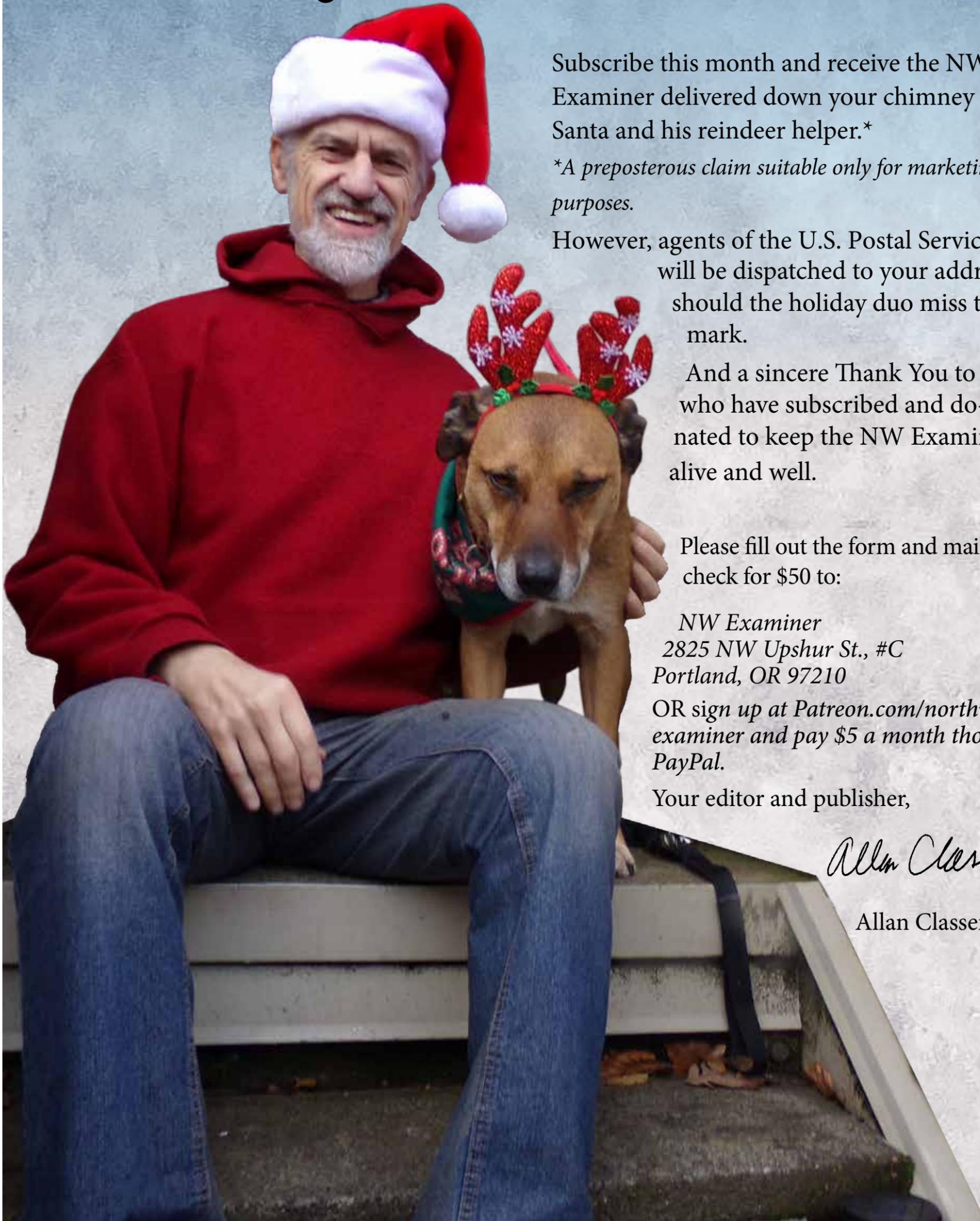
NORTHWEST LIBRARY

Multnomah County has purchased a new site for the Northwest Library at 2030 NW Pettygrove St. A community engagement process to guide the design and function of the space will begin next fall. The 10,000-square-foot space is more than twice the size of the current branch library at 2300 NW Thurman St.



For an interactive and continually updated version of this map, visit: NextPortland.com
Also see the development map maintained by the Goose Hollow Foothills League: goosehollow.org/images/GooseHollowDevelopmentMap.pdf

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The subscription drive continues. Our goal is 1,000 subscriptions in the first year. We have about 200 to go.



Where is this train going?

Temporary street seating looking more permanent

BY ALLAN CLASSEN

Builders will bend your ear with stories of how difficult it is to do a project in the city of Portland. The approval process can be long, unpredictable and expensive.

If a restaurateur or retailer wants to do business in the street, however, permits are free, rules lax, inspections nonexistent and pretty much anything goes.

It's a loophole big enough to drive a train through, and in fact, that's approximately what one restaurant plans to do. Langbaan, an Eastside Thai restaurant adding a second location in the old Ataula space, 1818 NW 23rd Place, is building a likeness of a railroad car in the parking lane and no red flags have gone up at City Hall.

It's part of the Portland Bureau of Transportation's Healthy Businesses Program, and if this project skirts a few of the rules, no one has noticed because a program with no permit fees has no revenues with which to hire inspectors.

Art Pearce, manager of the program, believes everyone wins when businesses find alternative uses for streets.

"Both participants in the program as well as Portlanders at large have been overwhelmingly supportive of this as something that's been a positive outcome of an otherwise very terrible

year," Pearce told the Northwest Parking Stakeholders Advisory Committee in July.

"The more standards we create, the more city staff we create to enforce those standards, so I think it's just some question about return on investment," he said.

That approach drew considerable pushback from the committee. Karen Karlsson was bothered that the absence of design or structural standards had produced an "eclectic and haphazard" mix of installations.

"What I don't like about some of them is they're just too permanent looking, and others are too impermanent looking," Karlsson said.

And nothing at the time she spoke was close to as permanent looking as the Langbaan "train car."

It has a sloped roof, double-hung windows, electrical wiring and presumably will have doors when finished.

"It looks like a mobile home," said Tom DiChiara, principal in Cairn Pacific LLC, a major developer of the Slabtown area.

"A few of our tenants are working on permanent structure designs to replace the temporary COVID shelters they built during the heat of the pandemic," he continued. "We've been hearing from



The structure on Northwest 23rd Place across from the Food Front parking lot is to be completed this month.

the city about 'permanence,' and these structures needing to be more integrated with the buildings they abut and serve. We expect that design review will require good materials, good design, no plastic and integration with their context. That is what we are asking of our tenants also."

However, "I don't see how this one does any of those things," DiChiara said.

Rick Michaelson, a developer and chair of the Parking SAC, doubts it even meets the city's bare-bones rules for street seating.

Those rules include a 6-foot height limit toward the curb and 3-foot maximum toward the traffic lane. Structures must be removed for city leaf collection.

Earlier city rules for outdoor restaurant enclosures required two sides to remain open to reduce COVID transmission.

Is the Healthy Businesses Program all about the economic health of businesses rather than the physical health of the public?

A PBOT spokesperson was given the opportunity to comment, but did not. The Bureau of Development Services, which approved the electrical permit for the Langbaan structure, told the NW Examiner that "PBOT's rules govern the placement of temporary structures in the right-of-way; BDS has nothing to add to PBOT's response."

COMMENT ON NWEXAMINER.COM or email: allan@nwexaminer.com

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NOBBY NEWS
Vol. 27, No. 12 "News You Can't Always Believe" December 2021

Yo, Jerry! . . .

Perhaps you've seen him over the years passively observing the 23rd Ave scene from just inside the Nob Hill Bar & Grill window.

In the spirit of community, Jerry is offering his new information service, Yo, Jerry!

Info will be limited to goings on in Nobbys and outside at Northwest 23rd and Lovejoy streets.

gone by?"

Callers are asked to be specific, i.e., "Yo, Jerry. Is Ron still talking?"

"Yo, Jerry! is K-man still in the closet?"

"Yo, Jerry! Has the streetcar

All things Nobbys are fair game.

"Yo, Jerry! Is the best breakfast in Portland still being served at Nobby's?"

Like a modern day sphynx, Jerry observes and answers.

BURGER COUNT 1,273,570

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Going Out Briefs . . .



The former Boke Bowl space at Northwest 18th and Northrup streets will become **TWO ZONE CHICKEN** (above), a “chicken pub” founded in South Korea in 2007.

HUNGRY HERO DESSERT CO., a Sherwood bakery, opened a second outlet at 433 NW 10th Ave., in October.

XLB, a “Chinese comfort food” restaurant founded in 2017, closed its Slabtown location on Northwest Raleigh Street recently.

Going Back



A delivery truck for a long-defunct grocery chain chugs up West Burnside Street at Ninth Avenue in this 1967 photo.
Portland Archives A2012-005



A foot bridge in City Park, which later became Washington Park, in about 1907. City of Portland Archives, A2004-002.575

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Sections of two streets will permanently be closed this month: A short section of Northwest Couch Street between 15th and 16th avenues (at bottom of photo) and the merge lane between Northwest 15th and 16th avenues (at right of photo). The closures are part of a larger project intended to improve pedestrian safety.



DOWNTOWN I-405 CROSSING IMPROVEMENT

Federal funding improvements along I-405 in the vicinity of NW Couch St are funded via the Downtown I-405 Pedestrian Safety and Operational Improvements Project. The improvements include new marked crossings, curb extensions, and traffic signal upgrades.

Project Manager:
Genet Leach

Project Timeline:
Construction Start: Approx. 10/1/21
Construction End: 2/28/22

- Subcontractor Name: [Redacted]
- New Trees
- Traffic Signal Upgrade
- Bike Lane
- Street Parking
- New Crosswalk Markings
- Scaling Opposite Markings
- New Street Lights



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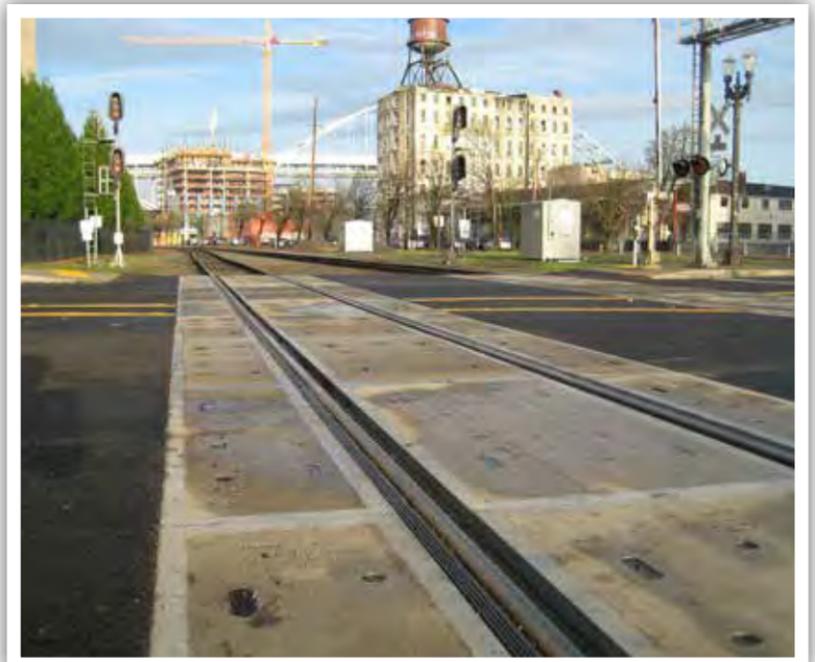


A gas can was found in this SUV, which burned Nov. 7 near Southwest 16th and Montgomery streets. The vehicle had no license plates. One fire truck responded.

Last winter, an American elm tree identified by the city as needing maintenance fell across Southwest Park Avenue, blocking two sidewalks and hitting a condominium building. The Downtown Neighborhood Association has been attempting to get a response from Portland Parks & Recreation on tree maintenance promised when the City Council passed the South Park Blocks Master Plan. Last month, City Commissioner Carmen Rubio's office advised DNA President Walter Weyler to contact Urban Forestry Manager Jenn Cairo. "I have personally been trying to reach Cairo via email and voicemail for more than 12 months and would appreciate your suggestion on how best to reach her," Weyler replied.



Five traffic barriers at Northwest 18th and Johnson got a coat of bright yellow paint last month.



The rail crossing at Northwest Ninth Avenue near Naito Parkway was regraded last month to improve safety. A 65-year-old e-scooter rider fell at this crossing two years ago and died later in a hospital.



A Portland Police Bureau mission on the North Park Blocks last month led to two arrests and confiscation of three guns, "a large amount" of fentanyl pills, crack cocaine, stolen property and cash. The mission was in response to "a sharp escalation in community and business complaints of increased criminal activity concentrated in the North Park Blocks."

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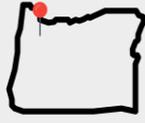
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“ Trock



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“ Harold S.



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